ABSTRACT

Load balancing apparatus for a data communications network
comprises hash logic for computing a hash function on incoming
data packets. A threshold detector is connected to the hash logic
5 for triggering, in response to utilization of the downstream
objects exceeding a predefined threshold, redefinition in the
hash logic of parameters of the hash function from a first set of
parameters to a second set of parameters for redistributing the
data packets amongst the downstream objects. In use, the hash
10 logic, directs the packets for routing to downstream objects in
the network via a first routing path based on a hash computation
using the first set of parameters, and, if the threshold is
exceeded, selectively directs the packets to one of the first
routing path and a second routing path in dependence on separate
15 hash computations using the first and the second sets of
parameters for subsequent routing of the packets via the selected
one of the first and second routing paths based on the results of
one of the separate hash computations.